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R. C. KINNEY, Agent S. F. M. Co. Salem, Sept. 14th

Salem Farmers' Club.

Salem Farmers' Club met at Simmons' school house in Salem hills, May 17, 1873.

The resolution discussed was: Resolved that the cheapest mode of thrashing grain is to cut it, haul it on sleds without binding and slide off to endless chain machine.

M. Fiske said the farmers of Linn county practiced this method largely and had found it the cheapest. He thought small farms a big machine ate up all the profits. The cost per bushel was as high as 15 to 20 cents. The method described in the resolution was much cheaper.

L. B. Judson did not wish to oppose the resolution altogether, but thought small crops should be put in the barn, and thrashed at convenience and feed the straw to stock.

J. P. Cole said the plan proposed had decided advantages; three men could pick up ten acres in a day with barley forks, while it took four to bind as much. The grain could be saved better by forks than by binding. A three horse power will thrash 250 bushels per day. It took comparatively few hands to thrash with a small machine; this was a decided advantage in neighborhoods. He had tried storing grain unthrashed in barns, but thought it was much better to thrash in the field. On large farms it was not practicable to store grain in the sheaf.

J. Minto said if he was a large grain producer he should practice this method, but storing grain unthrashed in the barn seemed to him the most economical method, as the straw was practically worth \$5 per ton, and the manure made by this plan was quite an object. He thought grain should be cut fully ten days before it was dead ripe. It would make better flour and the straw would make better feed. He contended that grain thus cut would make more flour per bushel. He had a crop of wheat that weighed 66 lbs per bushel measured. The miller thought it extraordinary. He was not sure but the plan of cutting and binding and stacking made the best wheat. By cutting early and letting the wheat stand in shock sometime, it finished the ripening process. His renter had stacked loose grain last year, and it did not do well, the miller refused to buy a portion of it on account of its not being well cured.

A. F. Davidson—The farmers of Russia, and other countries by long experiments have come to the conclusion that to thrash grain immediately is not the best plan. Wheat always went through a sweating process, and if thrashed immediately it would sweat in the bin and if in large bulk it would have a tendency to must. That did not make so good flour nor would it come up well thus thrashed. The plan of stacking was preferable altogether, then the wheat matured itself and was better fitted for all practicable purposes than any other.

J. A. Colby said he could take up twice as much with barley forks as could be bound. Two years ago in their section they used a small machine to great advantage. But a small machine to be made profitable should be run with good heavy horses—light horses would not pay. Two heavy span run time about would thrash as much as 300 bushels of wheat per day, and more of oats.

Mr. Wagoner—Can loose grain be put through a machine profitably?—The fern in the hills made loose grain impracticable with him, and a small machine could not do the work. A small machine attempted to thrash for him and was some two days thrashing something over a hundred bushels, the machine was out of repair a good part of the time, and finally the owner run a mule through the machine and went home disgusted. He thought grain should be bound, and a large machine used when there was much fern.

The Secretary said he guessed he was something of an old fogy in some things. He had followed the old plan of cutting and binding, and stacking. He had seen others thrash loose grain that was stacked, but he could not be induced to follow the

plan, as it took a good six horse machine all day to thrash 200 bushels of wheat thus managed. The same machine would thrash twice as much bound grain, and it was much easier handled. He thought the quickest way to do a thing was not always the safest or the best. Oregon wheat was beginning to degenerate, and it was difficult to obtain good flour at the mills. Wheat thrashed in the field was so dry sometimes that a machine would fairly grind it. Such wheat was not good for seed, nor are the cracked grains so good for flour. It was the interest of Oregonians to keep up the reputation of their wheat.—Oregon raised the best wheat in the world. There was a much greater waste in threshing loose grain, many heads coming from the machine untouched. His own observation convinced him that the waste in threshing loose grain and extra time in thrashing it would more than pay for binding and stacking, and if grain was nicely stacked, it would stand the rain and was altogether safer than thrashing in the field.

Mr. Witzel made a lengthy speech, comparing the different methods of caring for grain. Thought large machines the best. The work was sooner done by them and saved time to the farmer and his family. Inclined to think the header the cheapest and contended that grain headed could not be sold from grain taken care of in the ordinary way. Said he had taken both kinds to the mills, and millers could not distinguish between them, thought that headed grain made as much flour and as good, and made more bran and shorts. He liked to have plenty of bran and shorts, and wheat fully ripe, made more. He supposed this was the main objection the millers had to headed grain. They paid a little more for the flour than for early cut grain. The country was constantly improving in new methods of farm management. He wanted to keep up with the times, and do everything as cheaply as possible. Hence machinery was necessary, and farmers had been obliged to use it instead of muscle, because hired labor was not always attainable when needed, and much of it was almost worthless.—On large farms, the header and large machines were cheaper than any other. He stored part of his grain in Salem mills and kept back part at home. Was enabled to get 85 cents because he kept part at home, and the miller, to get all, paid the extra 5 cents. He thought farmers should control their grain.

C. Pierce had cut his grain with cradle and thought he could do it cheaper than with machinery. He believed in cutting, binding, shocking. He was enabled to sell his grain for seed because it looked better and he believed was better than most of his neighbors. He sold for 90, when others could get but 80 cents.

The President thought the discussion had taken a wide range, but was glad to see all the points discussed. The question he thought was tenable as to cheapness. Grain could be reaped for 75 cents per acre, and it could be picked up with barley forks twice as fast as binding and as clean, and the grain carefully placed on sleds, could be put through the machine as readily as bound grain. It did not cost much more to thrash it in this way than if stacked, hence binding, shocking and stacking were waste of time and money lost. He had known some parties that thrashed their grain with horses, and it only cost them ten cents per bushel to do so, and the grain was not cracked, and hence was better for seed.

[Mr. Editor, we have aimed to give the main thoughts of each speaker in as few words as possible, always remembering your injunction to make no long-winded reports. —SEC.]

M. Fiske and J. Minto were appointed a committee to confer with other clubs on the wool question.

T. L. Davidson, L. B. Judson, and J. P. Cole, were appointed a committee to look into the question of storing grain.

The resolution for the next regular meeting is the following:

Resolved, That dairy farming cannot be made generally successful in the Willamette valley.

T. L. DAVIDSON, Sec'y.

JAMES BROOKS' FORTUNE.—James Brooks died richer than he was supposed to have been. Of the property mentioned in the will, the half interest in the New York Evening Express newspaper and real estate is worth \$250,000, the fifth-avenue house \$60,000, and the Pacific bonds foot up \$195,000, besides the Washington property. The "personal and mixed" property, comprised in the last paragraph of the will, embraced among the possessions a large amount of stock in various Western railroad companies. Mr. Brooks' fortune at the time of his death was not less than \$1,250,000.

Buying through Agents.

INDEPENDENCE, OREGON, May 25, 1873.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The various and well printed articles written by leading agriculturists over the little State of Oregon, show beyond a doubt the firm and determined purpose of the farmers to resist oppression of any grade and character; and thinking that it might prove of some interest to the numerous readers of your paper to know what Polk county is doing in the matter, suffice it to say, that we have three Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, one at Oak Point, one at Monmouth, the other at Buena Vista, all in fine working order. I long since saw the necessity of farmers organizing, yet the how was a serious question for me to decide. If farmers were to organize in a manner that would protect their interest, capital and monopolies would become offended; hence a war between labor and capital, either at the ballot box or the bayonet. Viewing the situation from this standpoint, the farmers have remained perfectly silent, until capital has become almost uncontrollable. The laws cannot be enforced—it bribes juries, biases rulings of judges of law, find its way to the legislature thence to Congress, and shields all grades of crime, from defalcation to cold blooded murder; and, if farmers ask for the law to be enforced capital stands as the shield of the ancient Romans, and wards off the divinely appointed darts of Justice. And now fellow farmers, it is for you to say how long these grave wrongs shall be committed. You clothe all and feed all, you build palaces for the rich, the foundation of which costs more money than the product of your farm in a whole year; you furnish him with a fine carriage and silver-mounted harness to drive and wear away the hours in which he is not employed in planning schemes to cheat the laborer out of his hard and honest labor.

Now, it is not argued that farmers should organize so as to be oppressive to any, or that they should become politicians further than to command just laws. Neither are we to suppose that the cause of hard times is to be found solely in any one cause, but in a variety of causes, for we suffer our grain to be handled by a half dozen speculators, each one taking a profit at our expense, and likewise in what we buy; take for instance the article of machinery, (for farmers are like the mule that danced among the goslings—every fellow takes care of himself). When a farmer wants a thrasher or header, he goes to some agent and buys, generally the nearest agent—he sends to Portland, and he in turn to San Francisco or the East. Of course all get a per cent., and the farmer pays the bill. Now I insist that we have no use for these machine agents, as they are no benefit to the manufacturer, and a great detriment to the farmer.

When farmers want machinery, let them send direct to the manufacturer, and ask him just to knock off that 25 per cent. that he gives to his agent to tell the farmer that he needs a machine.

It is needless to say that the manufacturer would not act with us, for really he has no more use for the agent than we have, for think that he would prefer having his machinery sold before it leaves the shop, as to have it scattered over the State to be peddled out by agents, and I would like to see the shape of a manufacturer that would refuse an order for ten threshers, ten per cent. in advance, and the balance to collect on delivery. This, the Patrons of Husbandry, propose to accomplish, and we don't expect to accomplish it without opposition, for we are well satisfied if this rule had been adopted ten years ago it would have saved to Oregon in the price of machinery alone one million dollars. But it is argued that the farmers have not the intelligence to do their own business, and as a little pup from Portland a few days ago told one of my neighbors, that the farmers had not the intelligence to charter a vessel and send a load of wheat to Liverpool. If that were the hardest matter that we have to attend to, I am sure that it would be soon accomplished, but we have to teach just such chaps as he to plow, and we fear that they not only lack the intelligence but the brains.

L. W. ROBERTSON.

The Chicago News, which existed for three months last year, squandered \$28,000.